

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
TANAKA *et al.* )  
Serial Number: 09/918,796 )  
Filed: August 1, 2001 )  
For:      STORAGE SYSTEM AND VIRTUAL PRIVATE )  
              VOLUME CONTROL METHOD )  
Attorney Docket No. HITA.0073 )

Art Unit: 2188

Examiner:  
**VITAL, PIERRE M.**

**RECEIVED**

JAN 37 2004

Technology Center 2100

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 11, 2003, the period of response to which is set to expire on January 11, 2004, with the payment of the appropriate government extension fee for one month. Please amend the above-referenced application as follows: